

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1257 Session of
2025

INTRODUCED BY PROBST, McNEILL, MADDEN, GIRAL, SANCHEZ, SOLOMON,
HILL-EVANS, PIELLI, SAPPEY, NEILSON, HOHENSTEIN, DEASY,
KAZEEM, MENTZER, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, HADDOCK, SCOTT, D. WILLIAMS,
STEELE, GREEN, CONKLIN AND CIRESI, APRIL 17, 2025

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, APRIL 17, 2025

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth
2 of Pennsylvania, further providing for exemptions and special
3 provisions.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby resolves as follows:

6 Section 1. The following amendment to the Constitution of
7 Pennsylvania is proposed in accordance with Article XI:

8 That section 2(c) of Article VIII be amended to read:

9 § 2. Exemptions and special provisions.

10 * * *

11 (c) [Citizens and residents of this Commonwealth, who served
12 in any war or armed conflict in which the United States was
13 engaged and were honorably discharged or released under
14 honorable circumstances from active service, shall be exempt
15 from the payment of all real property taxes upon the residence
16 occupied by the said citizens and residents of this Commonwealth

1 imposed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or any of its
2 political subdivisions if, as a result of military service, they
3 are blind, paraplegic or double or quadruple amputees or have a
4 service-connected disability declared by the United States
5 Veterans Administration or its successor to be a total or 100%
6 permanent disability, and if the State Veterans' Commission
7 determines that such persons are in need of the tax exemptions
8 granted herein. This exemption shall be extended to the
9 unmarried surviving spouse upon the death of an eligible veteran
10 provided that the State Veterans' Commission determines that
11 such person is in need of the exemption.] A veteran of the
12 United States Armed Forces, including a reserve component of the
13 United States Armed Forces, who has been rated by the United
14 State Department of Veterans Affairs or its successor as 100%
15 permanent and totally disabled or compensated at the 100%
16 disability rate through a Federal program that provides
17 compensation to veterans who are unable to work due to a
18 service-connected disability shall be exempt from payment of
19 real property taxes. A political subdivision may, by ordinance
20 or resolution, exempt a veteran with a disability rated or
21 compensated at any level below 100% from payment of any portion
22 of real property taxes. This subsection shall apply to the
23 unmarried surviving spouse upon the death of an eligible
24 veteran, as well as the unmarried surviving spouses of service
25 members who died in the line of duty, are taken as prisoners of
26 war or declared missing in action.

27 Section 2. The following procedure applies to the proposed
28 constitutional amendment in this joint resolution:

29 (1) Upon the first passage by the General Assembly of
30 the amendment, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall

1 proceed immediately to comply with the advertising
2 requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution
3 of Pennsylvania.

4 (2) Upon the second passage by the General Assembly of
5 the amendment, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall
6 proceed immediately to comply with the advertising
7 requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution
8 of Pennsylvania. The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall
9 submit the amendment to the qualified electors of this
10 Commonwealth at the first general or municipal election which
11 meets the requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the
12 Constitution of Pennsylvania.